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Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/33, entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control", urged Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict.

2. The General Assembly welcomed the continuing efforts of the United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to accord high priority to the issue of women and peace and security, and in this regard noted the role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting the implementation of all resolutions related to women in the context of peace and security.

3. The General Assembly also urged Member States to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels, and called upon all States to empower women, including through capacity-building efforts, as appropriate, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts. It also requested the relevant United Nations organs, agencies, funds and programmes to assist States, upon request, in promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

4. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of resolution 68/33. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

5. A note verbale dated 12 February 2014 was sent to all Member States seeking their views on the subject. A memorandum dated 10 February 2014 was also dispatched to relevant entities of the United Nations system. Member States and relevant entities of the United Nations system were invited to provide summaries of their contributions for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General while their submissions in extenso are posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs if so requested by the Member State or entity. The replies received as of June 2014 are contained in sections II and IV of the present report. A reply from the European Union has been received and is reproduced in section III, in accordance with modalities set out in resolution 65/276. Additional replies will be issued as an addendum to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Argentina*

[Original: Spanish]
[28 May 2014]

In addition to the information provided previously (see A/68/166), it should be noted that, within the Ministry of Defence, the issues covered in resolution 68/33 fall under the purview of the Office of the Auditor of Defence Materiel, of which 50 per cent of the staff are women.

Ongoing monitoring of activities related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is also carried out by working groups that deal specifically with conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction, comprising personnel from the Auditor's Office, the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces and the Scientific and Technical Defence Research Institute, which also include female personnel. Moreover, both working groups have been coordinated by a woman for more than 10 years.

In that regard, it should be noted that women's involvement and integration is becoming a reality not only in the aforementioned tasks but also through participation in courses, seminars, conferences and other training activities conducted in military institutes and the National Defence College, all of which are well attended by women.

Furthermore, women who have the necessary training and expertise often represent the Ministry of Defence in international forums on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

It is the responsibility of the Auditor's Office to follow up comprehensively on the obligations of the Argentine Republic arising from its participation in various international disarmament and arms control regimes; the Auditor's Office strives to involve women in all tasks in order to train a critical mass of specialists.

In addition, the curricula of the various interrelated courses of study taught within the three branches of the armed forces systematically explore and cover issues and information relating to disarmament.

These basic, general or in-depth studies, depending on the level of knowledge required, are part of the training and development courses and the graduate and postgraduate degrees offered by the army, navy and air force.

Examples include:

- Bachelor's degree in international relations specializing in international conflicts, peace missions and disarmament (army, four years)
- Master's degree in strategy and geopolitics (army, two years)
- Special General Staff adviser course (army, one year)
- Master's degree in strategic studies (navy, one year)

* The full text of the information provided by the Government of Argentina is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/gender). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

- Special General Staff course (navy, one year)
- Command and General Staff course (air force, one year)

Female personnel make up about 10 per cent of the students in all the courses offered by military institutes.

National Defence College

- Master's degree in national defence
- Advanced course in national defence

Every year the Office of the Auditor of Defence Materiel offers lectures on the subject of disarmament in general. Women make up about 20 per cent of the student body of the National Defence College at all levels.

Australia

[Original: English]
[3 June 2014]

Australia strongly supports and promotes the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and the broader women and peace and security agenda will continue to be a priority for Australia during its term on the Security Council.

Australia recognizes that the misuse of small arms and light weapons exacerbates gender-based violence, including sexual violence. For this reason, Australia has ratified the Arms Trade Treaty. The Arms Trade Treaty, when entered into force, will, for the first time, establish an agreed global system for regulation of the international conventional arms trade on the basis of agreed common humanitarian and other standards. We reiterate our call on all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Treaty.

Over the past several years, Australia has actively supported women's participation in regional and international discussions to ensure that the voices of women are heard on disarmament and arms control. Australia made its second contribution of $A1 million to the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation. The Facility, launched in 2013, is designed to fund projects to support the implementation and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and the complementarity of implementation activities of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security focuses on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions to protect and empower women and girls in fragile, conflict and post-conflict situations. A progress report will be delivered to Parliament in 2014 that tracks Government action in this field.

Australia has appointed former Senator Natasha Stott Despoja as its Ambassador for Women and Girls. The Ambassador is responsible for high-level international advocacy to advance the political, economic and social empowerment of women and girls. Her focus is on promoting women's economic empowerment as

well as their participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding; ending violence against women and girls; and improving access to health and education services.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[22 April 2014]

José Martí, the national hero of the Republic of Cuba, wrote that "The struggles of peoples are weak only when they do not enlist the hearts of women".[1]

Cuba recognizes the importance of strengthening women's participation at all levels of decision-making in policymaking institutions, both national and international, in areas related to the promotion of international peace and security.

Cuba supports the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its call for steps to ensure peace for the advancement of women; recognition of the leading role that women have played in the peace movement and the active efforts they have made towards general and complete disarmament under strict, effective and efficient international control; and support for nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.

In the current international context, it is vital to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. Thus, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have an important role to play in monitoring the international commitments made by United Nations Member States in this regard.

Cuba is committed to promoting equal opportunities for women at all levels, including decision-making in matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Cuba has achieved enormous progress in relation to women's participation in, inter alia, the workforce, education, health, and political and economic life, as a result of public policies to benefit the Cuban people in general and women in particular.

The participation of Cuban women in the political life of the country can be seen from their strong presence in all bodies of the Cuban State and Government. In the latest general elections, held in February 2013, women won 48.86 per cent of parliamentary seats, a record high that places Cuba third in the world in terms of women parliamentarians and exceeds the targets established by the Beijing Platform for Action. In addition, 41.94 per cent of the members of the Council of State are women.

Cuba reaffirms its willingness to continue to work for the advancement and empowerment of women in all spheres of society.

[1] José Martí, *Obras Completas* (Complete Works), vol. 1, Havana, Editorial Ciencias Sociales, 1975, p. 17.

Denmark

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

It is widely recognized that sexual and gender-based violence carries responsibility for an unacceptably high share of human suffering in this world, not least of the suffering caused by the illicit and unregulated arms trade.

This was confirmed in the most welcome Security Council resolution 2117 (2013), in which the Council underlined that the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons have a disproportionate impact on violence perpetrated against women and girls, and exacerbate sexual and gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence was also allocated a prominent place in the Arms Trade Treaty, where it was reflected both in the preamble and in article 7 (4). Accordingly each exporting State party, when assessing risks related to an export authorization, shall take into account the risk of conventional arms being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children.

Further, the Security Council in resolution 1325 (2000) recognized that men and women are affected differently by weapons and armed conflict and that their contribution to disarmament efforts will be different and complementary.

Hence, we should reaffirm the importance of women's political, social and economic empowerment and of gender equality while emphasizing the important role that can be played by women, civil society, including women's organizations, and formal and informal community leaders in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict, and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

These affirmative and perceptive norms already established by the international community should be better reflected in future General Assembly resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Mainstreaming of gender awareness should form part of all the endeavours of the First Committee.

Based on the overall strategy and mainstreaming approach on gender equality in Danish development cooperation, women's rights and empowerment as well as gender awareness form an integral part of Danish assistance programmes related to disarmament and arms control, including in the revised Mine Action Strategy adopted in 2006 and still in force.

Ecuador*

[Original: Spanish]
[28 February 2014]

The Constitution of Ecuador establishes the promotion of peace and worldwide disarmament as principles, and guarantees gender equality, mainstreaming gender in national plans and projects in order to ensure equality between men and women.

Against that backdrop, Ecuador considers it important to stress the following considerations with respect to the promotion of the role of women in matters of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control:

(a) The role of women in matters of disarmament and non-proliferation is intrinsically linked to the promotion of equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender. Such matters overlap with the protection of human rights and humanitarian law. This leads us to believe that concrete actions to promote the role of women should be rooted in the constitutional guarantees that enable women to participate in the taking of far-reaching, State-altering decisions.

(b) From the development perspective, the empowerment of women to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament initiatives can come about only through educational measures that raise awareness of the vulnerability of women and girls to the violence resulting from both the transfer of arms and armed conflict.

(c) Given the vulnerability of women and girls during conflict, the State has a primary responsibility to ensure their judicial protection, in order to prevent impunity from creating a vicious circle that exacerbates the original conflict.

(d) Because disarmament has extraterritorial implications, regional initiatives are very important. Experience-sharing could be a first step towards a cross-cutting approach to the issues of gender and disarmament, with a view to the construction of common policies.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[23 June 2014]

Georgia accords special attention to the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and in peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Almost 14 years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, a stronger gender approach to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control could give much needed momentum to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict. Equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is one of the essential factors for the promotion and achievement of sustainable peace and security.

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* The full text of the information provided by the Government of Ecuador is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/gender). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

The Government of Georgia considers that the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control should be further developed. In this regard, we suggest the following:

- Raising the level of women's education and their professional expertise, and ensuring their employment in relevant positions and greater involvement in the decision-making process
- Conducting training and information meetings for a more detailed approach to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (training should be conducted on the basis of international experience and with advanced curriculums)
- Conducting discussions and/or simulations, where women will be able to practise the theoretical knowledge received during the above-mentioned training and information meetings
- Supporting women's involvement in a disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control information campaign and promoting their participation in the relevant State services as experts as well as decision makers.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[21 March 2014]

Iraq is convinced of the fundamental role of women in society, whether at home or in the workplace. Women participate in decision-making in the legislative power (Parliament); in Government, where they are represented by the Ministry of Women's Issues; and in local government, as members of local councils in the governorates. The Government of Iraq has taken measures to prevent and control the proliferation of weapons. Laws have been enacted to prevent armed attacks and arms proliferation. Those laws do not exclude or discriminate against women in any area. Iraq is a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and has submitted its report accordingly.

Women are an important component of the family, society and the State, and must be taken into account in programmes for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The categories of "male and female combatants", "categories in non-combat roles, including women" and "children connected with armed forces or groups" all include women, and women affect the latter group indirectly. In the preamble to resolution 68/33, the General Assembly recognized the valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures carried out at the local, national, subregional and regional levels in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict, and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In so doing, it underlined another dimension of women's role in that area: women are equal to men in fulfilling their responsibility to contribute to the realization of local, national and international peace and security.

Women play an important role in disarmament in local and national civil society through their direct effect on the family, which is the building block of society. They raise and guide the family, directing the interests of its members according to the principle of shared duties. They instil a spirit of self-examination that prevents individuals from misusing weapons. They have an influence on people who express their views through violence and terrorism. Depending on their

situation, they can help to disseminate a culture of non-violence and disarmament. However, the necessary role of women in the family and society can be fulfilled only if the following supportive factors are present:

(a) There should be appropriate opportunities for women to take on leadership roles in security committees at the local and national level and in Parliament;

(b) Women's organizations should run awareness-raising campaigns to highlight the role of women in disarmament and arms control, the legal repercussions of resorting to weapons, and the negative effect of weapons on society in general.

Iraq is convinced that, in accordance with the principle of equality, women should work fully and effectively with men in all areas related to disarmament and non-proliferation. That role is one of the fundamental conditions for the realization of sustainable peace and security. Iraq is also convinced that women, depending on their situation, can have a considerable impact on practical disarmament measures at the local and national levels, and on non-proliferation and conflict prevention.

Iraq has made significant efforts to increase the involvement of women in national institutions involved in disarmament, security and law enforcement.

In accordance with the 2005 Permanent Constitution of the Republic of Iraq, the Government of Iraq grants equal opportunities to women for representation in all national and international action on disarmament, non-proliferation and prevention of armed violence. Women are included in the relevant decision-making processes.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[22 May 2014]

In order to promote the role of women in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, the Ministry of Social Affairs has carried out the following activities:

A number of services are provided with a view to preventing violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations in the context of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. These include the following:

(a) At development service centres run by the Ministry, social and health workers counsel women who have escaped from domestic violence and refer them to specialized agencies.

(b) In coordination with specialized civil society organizations or specialist doctors, the Ministry provides free psychological and legal services, counselling and guidance for women who have escaped from violence.

(c) Women who have escaped from family violence receive free medical care at development service centres run by the Ministry.

(d) In cooperation with the International Medical Corps and the Abaad Resource Centre for Gender Equality, a national technical working group on preventing violence against women in Lebanon was established in 2012. The

working group has been given a range of technical and liaison functions intended to develop specialized national working mechanisms, particularly the following:

(i) An integrated national mechanism has been established to detect cases of gender-based and domestic violence identified by the medical sector.

(ii) A code of conduct for health workers has been drafted. The code constitutes the ethical framework for services provided to women who have escaped from gender-based and domestic violence.

(iii) A form has been prepared to document cases of gender-based and domestic violence identified by social workers.

(iv) Harmonized standards of excellence have been introduced for counselling offices in all regions of Lebanon, particularly those located in development service centres under the Ministry of Social Affairs and in first aid centres run by the Ministry of Public Health and Civil Society Associations.

(v) Guidance has been issued to define roles and prerogatives for counselling and intervention in cases of gender-based and family violence. The guidance is intended for social workers at development service centres under the Ministry of Social Affairs and in first aid centres run by the Ministry of Public Health and Civil Society Associations.

Action has been taken to increase women's participation and representation and focus on gender equality in conflict, conflict resolution, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In recent years, the Women's Issues Section of the Ministry of Social Affairs has taken part in a series of national consultative meetings organized at the regional level in cooperation with United Nations entities, research institutes and international and civil society organizations coordinated by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom together with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The first consultative meeting, on the theme "Agenda to promote security and peace and combat discrimination against women", addressed women, security and peace in Lebanon, and ways to include women in decision-making roles, particularly involving peace and security. The second consultative meeting on women, security and peace discussed national priorities on women's rights and their inclusion in issues of peace, security and disarmament.

Mexico*

[Original: Spanish]
[3 June 2014]

Mexico believes that a gender perspective in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is essential, bearing in mind that it is women who indirectly and disproportionately suffer the consequences and depredations of the illicit traffic in weapons and who are exposed to domestic, sexual and gender violence.

* The full text of the information provided by the Government of Mexico is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/gender). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

The international community should continue to call for women's presence in peace negotiations, longer lists of women candidates for senior positions, and peacebuilding processes with a gender perspective.

Mexico promotes the equitable representation of women across all sectors and levels of government, particularly in the security sector, recognizing women's critical role in influencing public policies on security, disarmament and arms control.

In that regard, the Government of Mexico would like to make the following recommendations:

1. All policies on disarmament and arms trafficking should take into account the protection of and respect for human rights.
2. Respect for and adherence to international humanitarian law must be promoted, and armed violence against women must be condemned wherever, by whomever and under whatever circumstances it is committed.
3. Women should be involved in disarmament initiatives and efforts to counter arms trafficking. Moreover, their participation should be facilitated in order to democratize peace and security processes and integrate different perspectives.
4. Parties to armed conflict, the United Nations and international organizations should ensure the equal participation of women in conflict resolution and peace processes, as well as in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.
5. The Arms Trade Treaty must enter into force in order to stem the proliferation of weapons and reduce violence against women.
6. Gender quotas should be used when implementing police, intelligence and arms control activities.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[10 June 2014]

In order to promote women's participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, more women should be involved in the direct recruitment of candidates to posts that pertain to those areas and involve decision-making.

Currently, the Governor of the Province of Panama and other women have been involved in developing the "Weapons for food" programme; Government officials have expressed interest in using their platform to implement the programme at the national level.

Philippines

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

The Philippines supports the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes. The social, political, economic and humanitarian consequences of the proliferation and illicit and

unregulated trade in small arms, ammunition, explosives and light and heavy weapons are different among various sectors of the population. While women comprise a minority of dealers, importers and users of firearms and have thus often been marginalized in policies and programmes on disarmament and arms control, they are very much affected by the dangers posed by the proliferation of such weapons. The illicit trade in conventional arms, particularly small arms and light weapons and ammunition, is a contributing factor in the proliferation of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in the domestic sphere, not only in times of conflict but even in post-conflict situations. However, the tendency to highlight the vulnerabilities of women and focus on the protection and promotion of their rights has often obscured the many other roles women can and do play in building and maintaining peace.

The adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) encourages the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to ensure that the different needs of female and male former combatants and their dependants are taken into account. In the resolution the Council recognized women's pivotal role and the importance of their participation in the field of conflict management, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The following are the policies and laws promulgated by the Philippines to harmonize and integrate resolution 1325 (2000) into national policies towards creating an enabling environment for promoting the participation and role of women in peace and security efforts, particularly in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control at the national level:

- Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women — the country's comprehensive women's human rights law
- Creation of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (the first in Asia) in 2010. The framework of the Philippine National Action Plan seeks to ensure the security of women and girls, especially from sexual and gender-based violence. This Plan identifies as a strategy the adoption of mechanisms to regulate the transfer and use of tools of violence in armed conflict, particularly small arms and light weapons, for the prevention of crimes and various forms of sexual and gender-based violence. At the same time, it promotes the active and direct participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict management, post-conflict rehabilitation and peacebuilding processes, which is envisioned to contribute to the attainment of a just, gender-responsive, non-violent and peaceful society.

The following are the measures taken by the Philippine Government in promoting the role and participation of women in disarmament and arms control processes as it implements the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and programmes on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration:

1. Collection and systematization of sex-disaggregated data and information, particularly on former combatants and their families, as well as beneficiaries of disarmament programmes, to serve as a basis for planning, programming and policy formulation.

2. Conduct of gender analysis of the situation and roles of women and men in armed conflict and in the arms trade to ensure that the needs and concerns of both women and men combatants, their families and members of the community are

considered in the development and implementation of strategies for a more effective disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control process.

3. Organizing the formation of women's groups and conduct of consultations to gather inputs regarding the status and process of disarmament and arms control in their particular community or locality.

4. Ensuring the inclusion and participation of women in monitoring mechanisms for disarmament and arms control programmes.

5. Conduct of reviews of security programmes and processes to ensure that these are responsive to the specific concerns and rights of women.

6. Ensuring the incorporation of gender dimensions in national legislation, particularly that related to the regulation of the ownership, possession, carrying, manufacture and importation of firearms and ammunition.

7. Repeal of discriminatory laws and policies and use of temporary special measures in the admission, promotion, remuneration and treatment of women in the security sector.

8. Provision of skills and leadership capability enhancement programmes for women, particularly at the local or grassroots level, to enable them to actively participate in peace and security processes and mechanisms.

9. Creation of policies to ensure the representation of women in decision-making bodies for peace and security, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and initiatives at both the national and local levels.

10. Encouraging the participation of women in disarmament education and advocacy.

11. Creation of gender-sensitive materials and modules on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and arms control, as well as conduct of gender sensitivity training and seminars on laws and mandates related to women and peace and security, particularly members of security forces and other law enforcement agencies to enhance the gender-responsiveness of the sector and foster a culture of acceptance for the inclusion and participation of women in security and peacebuilding processes and mechanisms.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[20 May 2014]

Portugal recognizes that women's and men's participation, on an equal, effective and total basis, in the promotion of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is essential in order to promote international peace and security.

Portugal adhered to international instruments and protocols on this issue, and also created internal legislation that aims at the promotion of women's participation in the above-mentioned areas. In May 2011, Portugal ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Although its internal legislation includes many of the arrangements included in that Protocol, this ratification reinforces

Portugal's position, in the context of the United Nations, with regard to combating the traffic, stockpiling and proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Portugal also supported the conclusions of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in 2012, as well as the criterion related to gender consecrated in the Arms Trade Treaty and gender-based violence (namely domestic violence) which is intrinsically linked to the traffic in that type of arms.

Portugal has been promoting — through political and strategic guidelines as well as action plans related to them — equality of opportunities between women and men in the decision-making processes and recognizes the valorous contribution of women in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, namely through their representation in the armed forces, which has been growing in recent years. Data reported to 2013 indicates that the representation of women in the armed forces was 10.7 per cent in the Army, 8.6 per cent in the Navy and 14.3 per cent in the Air Force. With regard to the internal security forces, the number of women in the National Guard (Guarda Nacional Republicana) was 5.5 per cent and it was 7.6 per cent in the Police (Polícia de Segurança Pública).

Regarding domestic and gender-based violence, Portugal adopted the V National Plan on Preventing and Combating Domestic and Gender-based Violence, 2014-2017, which is integrated into the programme of the XIX Constitutional Government. Portugal has been underlining the need for coordination among the entities involved in this process, either in the protection of victims and training of professionals working in these areas or in the research and punishment of the crimes.

The V National Plan on Preventing and Combating Domestic and Gender-based Violence is in the frame of the commitments assumed by Portugal in many international institutions, namely the United Nations Organization, the European Council, the European Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. Also noteworthy is the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Portugal was the first country to ratify that Convention, on 5 February 2013.

Particularly important, from the point of view of the above-mentioned National Plan, was the national transposition of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which is comprehensive, and includes humanitarian assistance in armed conflicts, the internal promotion of coherence and articulation among internal policies in the area of disarmament, arms control and combating the use of light weapons, public security and combating gender-based violence, aiming at the defence of human rights, especially, in this context, women's rights.

Switzerland*

[Original: English]
[3 June 2014]

The Swiss foreign policy in the domain of peace and security endorses an approach that is gender-responsive and that considers the different needs of women and men in an adequate and appropriate manner. The gender perspective is thus well embedded in Swiss endeavours for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, which fall under the peace and security policy.

Switzerland has developed a National Action Plan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. In a whole government approach, all relevant actors of the Swiss Confederation have committed themselves, under this action plan, to concrete measures, which are regularly monitored and reviewed. An example includes the standardized predeployment training on resolution 1325 (2000) Swiss peacekeepers undergo prior to their deployment to the international security presence in Kosovo.

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs pays attention also to the gender sensitivity of project partners and the gender balance in the organization structures of strategic partners. The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces for instance is committed to a systematic gender mainstreaming of all its programmes and projects, taking into account resolution 1325 (2000).

Further, the Swiss mine action and small arms and light weapons strategies include gender sensitivity and the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) as guiding principles. But also in other forums, such as the framework of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, or in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, Switzerland acts as a strong promoter of gender-inclusive approaches and gender-specific considerations, allowing also input by civil society representatives.

At the multilateral level, Switzerland is committed to including gender references in all relevant frameworks. In this respect, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights have developed a new application for smartphones and tablets which facilitates the search for common language and already existing documents related to gender, peace and security. The database not only includes documents negotiated and adopted in recent decades within the United Nations system but also regional instruments. In future, the database will be regularly updated with newly adopted United Nations documents.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[4 June 2014]

In order to implement gender mainstreaming in public policy, and taking into consideration the tasks entrusted to the agencies responsible for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, efforts are made in staffing those agencies to ensure proportional and balanced representation by candidates of both sexes.

* The full text of the information provided by the Government of Switzerland is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/gender). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

An example of this can be seen in the State Border Service of Ukraine, where approximately 25 per cent of the military personnel serving at checkpoints are women. That percentage remains the same for personnel assigned to detect and prevent illegal transfers of nuclear and radioactive materials at the State border.

The State Export Control Service of Ukraine currently has 44 men on staff, making up 56 per cent of the total, while there are 38 women, making up 48 per cent of the staff. Management is enabling women to participate effectively in the work of the Service and is involving them in decision-making processes in matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

There are six women in leadership positions in the State Export Control Service (three department heads, two sector heads and one deputy department head), making up 27 per cent of senior management.

For purposes of the professional development of employees in this government agency, including female employees, staff members are given active support to attend national and international training courses, seminars and conferences on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. In particular, just since the beginning of 2014, staff have participated in the following:

- In February 2014, a seminar for government agencies on inter-agency cooperation to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as part of an international programme on non-proliferation and export control of the United States Department of Energy (Kyiv).
- In March 2014, a seminar held on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), on the theme of "The contribution of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) to regional and global disarmament and non-proliferation" (Astana).
- In March 2014, a conference on conducting the midpoint evaluation of European Union cooperation with third countries in the field of government control over exports of military goods (programme of the Council Working Group on Conventional Arms Exports) and on export control of dual-use goods (Brussels).

It should be noted that, generally speaking, the situation is similar in the other government agencies of Ukraine. These examples indicate that the gender component of the staffing policy being implemented in Ukraine is in compliance with General Assembly resolution 68/33.

III. Reply received from the European Union*

[Original: English]
[29 May 2014]

As stated by the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, it is harder to achieve lasting peace and security in any country or any region when only half of the population is represented at a negotiating table or in talks on post-conflict reconstruction. The European Union

* The full text of the information provided by the European Union is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/gender). A summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

considers that the participation of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is crucial. The role of women in these areas can be enhanced by promoting gender consciousness and by integrating women in the process.

Following Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, the European Union has adopted measures that aim to make Common Security and Defence Policy missions gender conscious. European Union member States individually and the Union itself have continued to take action to promote awareness of gender in the field of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as calling attention to the special situation of women in conflict by appointing gender advisers for conflict management missions, by cooperating with the United Nations on a number of related international initiatives — specifically with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) — and by facilitating the role of women in conflict mediation.

The memorandum of understanding between the European Union and UN-Women, signed on 16 April 2012, focuses on the following (non-exclusive) thematic areas: gender justice, women's leadership and political participation; women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities; combating sexual and gender-based violence; humanitarian aid; women and peace and security; responsiveness of plans and budgets to gender equality; gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of global issues. In the joint work programme for 2014, implementation of activities related to women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control was prioritized.

Financial support under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, established on 11 March 2014, foresees that whenever possible the following cross-cutting issues shall be reflected in the programming: the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights and humanitarian law, including children's rights and the rights of indigenous peoples; non-discrimination, gender equality and women's empowerment; conflict prevention; and climate change.

The European Union and its member States provide broad support to formal and informal mediation efforts worldwide and the European Union works towards women's participation in such mediations. This is done, among others, through building capacities by training women in mediating and negotiating skills and by supporting the participation of women in mediation and conflict resolution processes.

IV. Replies received from the United Nations system

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

[Original: English]
[21 April 2014]

The Security Council, in its resolution 2129 (2013), reaffirmed its intention to increase its attention to women and peace and security issues in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda, including threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

The Security Council, in the same resolution, invited the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, as appropriate and in consultation with relevant Member States, to further engage and enhance its partnerships with international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society, academia and other entities.

Women play an important part in the implementation of a comprehensive and integrated counter-terrorism strategy in the prevention of terrorism and violence in conflicts, as well as in all other relevant sectors of the society.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate have their mandate from the Security Council in monitoring, promoting and facilitating the implementation by Member States of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

In its dialogues and interaction with and visits to Member States, the Executive Directorate has brought to the attention of Member States the requirements of the relevant Security Council resolutions and appeals, including on the importance of integrating fully the gender perspective into activities in addressing terrorism issues and the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate has also participated in and contributed to a number of international and regional workshops that addressed the role of women in combating violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. The Executive Directorate, in facilitating the delivery of technical assistance to Member States aimed at enhancing their capacity-building, continues to make efforts in fulfilling the requirements of relevant Security Council resolutions.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[27 May 2014]

The United Nations Environment Programme has partnered with UN-Women, the United Nations Development Programme and the Peacebuilding Support Office to analyse the relationship between women and natural resources in conflict-affected and peacebuilding settings. Among other topics, the resulting policy report, *Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential*, examines how natural resource management can support the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of female ex-combatants. The report and supporting materials are available at www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/Introduction/ECP/WomenandNaturalResourcesinPeacebuilding/tabid/131156/Default.aspx.

The report examines how women's diverse experiences in times of conflict have powerful implications for their contributions to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Shifting gender norms coupled with women's roles in natural resource management can greatly influence their ability to recover and participate in various decision-making processes. For example, when disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes fail to recognize these roles and develop gender-specific programmes, female ex-combatants can be further marginalized and even denied the support services afforded to male ex-combatants, such as access to land or disbursements of cash through which land can be purchased.

Furthermore, secure access to valuable natural resources such as land is key for ex-combatants to be able to provide for themselves and sustain productive livelihoods, especially when they do not return to their families or communities of origin. In many conflict-affected contexts women face unique challenges in accessing land. This remains a significant barrier for reintegration for female combatants.

Mine Action Service

[Original: English]
[2 June 2014]

The Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013-2018,[2] adopted by the 14 United Nations entities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, pays special attention to strengthening the United Nations capacity to take into account and apply gender considerations. The United Nations is committed to the implementation of the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes,[3] with particular attention to collecting data disaggregated by gender and age and adhering to gender requirements in United Nations contracting procedures and fund allocations.

In 2013, the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Chair of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, entered into a partnership with the Gender in Mine Action Programme to complete baseline assessments and to work with Mine Action Service programmes to design gender mainstreaming strategies for Afghanistan and South Sudan. In addition, the Service, which is the mine action coordinator for the Global Protection Cluster, has promoted the integration of gender considerations into mine action programming and planning in the context of humanitarian interventions. A special meeting of the Mine Action Global Protection Cluster was held in 2013 to highlight this approach, organized by the Mine Action Service, the Gender in Mine Action Programme and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee; the South Sudan programme was used as a case study.

Recognizing the importance of the inclusion of women in peace and security efforts, such activities promote equality and empowerment by ensuring that women and girls have the same opportunity as men and boys to participate in and benefit from mine action interventions as employees and beneficiaries. In South Sudan there are examples of this targeted focus taking hold among national efforts, with the support of the Mine Action Service. The National Technical Standards and Guidelines now include the requirement for gender-balanced community liaison teams. This requirement allows for a better understanding of the needs, fears, expectations and knowledge of women, girls, boys and men in affected communities. It also facilitates the gathering of gender-disaggregated data that can be fed back into programme design and prioritization. In the territory of Western Sahara, landmines are cleared by men and women. Seeing that the women are capable of the physical and technical demands of the job has had a powerful impact on many, particularly the older men who had initial reservations about women working as deminers. For the women, they say that their roles have boosted their

[2] http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/mine_action_strategy_mar15.pdf.
[3] http://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/publications/MA-Guidelines-WEB.pdf.

status within the community and they hope that this will lead to a better standard of life for all women. Furthermore, the involvement of women in a wider range of mine action-related roles such as landmine clearance, risk education, contamination surveys and assistance to victims is challenging stereotypes that continue to persist. Nevertheless, the fact that women are able to reach out to and engage a whole sector of beneficiaries that men cannot makes projects more effective and sustainable.

Office for Disarmament Affairs

[Original: English]
[10 June 2014]

General observations

The Office for Disarmament Affairs acknowledges the significance of resolution 68/33 as it underlines the importance of gender-sensitive disarmament, thus buttressing the Office's mandate to mainstream gender perspectives in its work. It is understood that "gender mainstreaming" is not exclusive to women, but rather entails full and equal participation of both men and women. Nevertheless, the international community has recognized that the promotion of the role of women in international peace and security, including in disarmament and arms control, is an agenda item worthy of particular consideration.

While the Office welcomes exploration of all aspects of the gender and disarmament nexus, the gender dimensions of small arms control are particularly salient. The Arms Trade Treaty adopted in 2013 recognized the link between international conventional arms transfers and gender-based violence. In addition, the Security Council addressed the gender implications of small arms by adopting resolution 2117 (2013). In that resolution, the first resolution adopted by the Security Council on the issue of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, the Council explicitly recognized the role played by small arms in violence perpetrated against women and girls as well as their exacerbating effect on sexual and gender-based violence. The Council also noted the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes that are sensitive to the needs of women and children and women's full and effective participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Likewise, in his most recent report on small arms (S/2013/503) the Secretary-General recalled the negative impact of armed conflict on gender roles and relations. Moreover, he recognized that an abundance of uncontrolled weapons in a context of lawlessness can lead to increases in gender-based violence, including rape, abduction and trafficking. In his report, the Secretary-General recommended regular information exchange between the informal expert group on the protection of civilians of the Security Council, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and other relevant entities, particularly on the impact of small arms misuse on civilians, including women.

In the same vein, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 24/35 on 27 September 2013 entitled "Impact of arms transfers on human rights in armed conflicts", in which it expressed deep concern at the fact that arms transfers to those involved in armed conflicts may seriously undermine the human rights of civilians, especially women. The Council noted that such arms transfers may also increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

In addition to resolutions and mandates adopted by various entities of the United Nations system, the Office welcomes exploration of other avenues through which gender-sensitive arms control can be addressed. This includes other activities and initiatives by both Member States and civil society aimed at facilitating the participation and perspectives of women. The Office remains convinced that an inclusive approach to disarmament and arms control efforts is preferable to one that fails to recognize how men and women are affected differently by, and involved in, issues related to arms.

Activities and initiatives of the Office

The Office for Disarmament Affairs, primarily through implementation of its Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (2014),[4] continues to further disarmament objectives through gender-sensitive programmes, activities and policies. Pursuant to a department-wide policy, the Office seeks to ensure that there is a gender component in all its programmes and initiatives at Headquarters as well as through its regional centres in Kathmandu, Lima and Lomé. It seeks to complement and support the work of Member States, civil society and other international organizations in promoting equal opportunities for women in all decision-making processes with regard to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Furthermore, the Office seeks to underline the valuable contribution women can make to practical disarmament measures.

The Office promotes the participation of women in disarmament programmes and activities as well as in relevant, mandated forums including the Disarmament Fellowship Programme, groups of governmental experts, and the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters. The participation of female experts in activities carried out by the Office under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), including many regional workshops, is also strongly promoted and encouraged. Similarly, the Office encourages Member States to nominate female participants for its disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation training courses for security sector officials and technical and scientific experts.

The regional centres have been particularly active in highlighting the importance of the participation of women in disarmament-related initiatives. In 2013, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean organized a women-only training course on combating the illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives from 25 November to 6 December 2013 in San Salvador. The training sought to increase the opportunities for women officials to access specialized training, which is often characterized by a disproportionate bias in favour of male participation. This initiative also acknowledged the crucial role played by women in promoting peace and disarmament and how strengthening their capacities can greatly contribute to small arms control.

The Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean secured funding in 2014 for its new gender proposal aimed at building momentum and State capacity for regional implementation of

[4] An update of the 2003 Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan was issued in January 2014. The update further consolidates gender-related objectives of the Office across all of its subprogrammes. It is available at www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/gender/docs/gmap2014.pdf.

General Assembly resolution 65/69. The Centre will call on various national entities to provide expertise and statistical information, such as women's ministries, national observatories, civil society organizations and international entities in the recipient State. The Centre will also build on the experience accrued — at a global level — by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the delivery of assistance to Member States on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), Assembly resolution 68/33 and the final report of the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, in celebration of the International Day of Peace, participated in training sessions for young women on 20 September 2013 under the theme "Citizenship education of young women, guaranteeing a fairer society". The workshop brought together 30 young women from five economic regions of Togo. The Centre made a presentation on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), paying particular attention to the provisions that prohibit gender discrimination and promote, among other things, increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making, especially in the prevention, management and peaceful settlement of conflicts. The Centre also co-organized training of police and other law enforcement agencies on the use of force during elections in Antananarivo on 10 October 2013. This training included a training module on gender-based violence and the need for police to be sensitive to gender considerations.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific has been engaged in a "peace and disarmament education" project initiated with the Nepal Ministry of Education in 2013. The project, inter alia, addresses gender-based violence, raising women's awareness of their rights and promoting gender-transformative social norms. Through this project, the Centre has assisted with integrating such content and materials into national grade 8 textbooks and grade 9-10 curricula. The Centre has also encouraged the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in the Asia-Pacific region, including its provision related to gender-based violence.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

[Original: English]
[11 June 2014]

Extraordinary achievements have been made at the normative level in recognizing the linkages between gender equality, women's empowerment and the maintenance of peace and security. In 2013, the Security Council adopted two new resolutions — 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) — to further operationalize the women and peace and security agenda;[5] two high-level political commitments were made to combat sexual violence in conflict;[6] a declaration on women's economic

[5] As at June 2014, the Security Council has adopted seven thematic resolutions: resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013).

[6] In April 2013, the Group of Eight Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence was signed. In September 2013, Member States signed a Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

empowerment for peacebuilding was adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC/7/OC/3), and notably — as reported in the 2013 report — a criterion on gender-based violence was included in article 7 (4) of the Arms Trade Treaty which requires States to consider the risks of gender-based violence in their arms transfer decisions. The adoption by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations was another landmark achievement giving authoritative guidance to countries that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on concrete measures to ensure that women's human rights are protected before, during and after conflict. The Committee recommended that States parties address the gendered impact of international transfers of arms, especially small and illicit arms, including through the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

The challenge ahead — and measuring stick — lies in ensuring that progress at the normative level is translated into concrete actions on the ground and that positive trends are not reversed. Sustainable peace necessitates disarmament because a resurgence in violence, including gender-based violence and homicide, can often be attributed to the ready availability of weapons. More efforts are still needed to build capacity for gender and conflict analysis and collection of sex-disaggregated data on matters related to disarmament and small arms. The correlation between sexual violence and inadequate security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts is another concern emphasized in recent reports (see S/2014/181). In the lead-up to the high-level review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in 2015, UN-Women will continue to work with all stakeholders — Member States, regional organizations, United Nations entities and civil society partners — to accelerate the implementation of women and peace and security commitments and to support women's full and meaningful participation and access in all policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to arms control and disarmament.

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Sixty-ninth session
Item 97 (r) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/69/150.
** The information in the present report was received after the issuance of the main report.

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II. Replies received from Governments

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]
[18 July 2014]

Trinidad and Tobago was the main sponsor of General Assembly resolutions 65/69, 67/48 and 68/33 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, adopted by consensus by the Assembly in 2010, 2012 and 2013, respectively.

International efforts

- Trinidad and Tobago convened a high-level side event on 25 September 2012 in the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly that provided an opportunity to expand the discourse on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
- The publication *Forces of Change: Profiles of Latin American and Caribbean Women Combating Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms* was launched at the side event on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Regional efforts

The following regional seminars and conferences were hosted to provide disarmament and arms control training to security personnel, including women:

- July 2010: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: firearms destruction and stockpile management assistance package for Caribbean States
- April and October 2011 and April 2012: Inter-institutional training course on combating trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives
- June 2012: Regional round table on combating trafficking in small arms and light weapons through strengthened border controls
- March 2013: Bioresponse workshop in collaboration with the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
- April 2013: Three-day workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
- June 2013: National armoury management training course and launch of the Caribbean Regional Armoury Management Training Centre in an effort to manage and secure national weapons stockpiles
- November 2013: A regional armoury management training course for Caribbean States
- April 2014: Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police
- May 2014: Eighteenth Joint Meeting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Standing Committees of Commissioners of Police and Military Chiefs.

Colombia*

[Original: Spanish]
[7 August 2014]

The High Commissioner for Peace stated that gender is a cross-cutting element in all negotiations between the Government and the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia-Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP) and highlighted the establishment of a subcommittee on gender for the accords, which include a gender perspective.

In addition, the Ministry of Defence noted the following advances in the area of gender equity: (1) the post of Senior Presidential Advisor on Gender Equity was created; and (2) a comprehensive policy framework was established that provides for the recognition of sexual and reproductive rights, the prevention of violence and aggression and the equal exercise of political (the Quota Act), social and cultural rights, among other important provisions.

With respect to ways of promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, we suggest that (1) representatives of women's groups and associations be included in discussion panels and programmes on the topic; (2) advisory boards be established within national and international disarmament programmes, in coordination with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); and (3) military observatories for gender equality be promoted as entities providing technical and administrative support for the inclusion of women in such programmes.

* The full text of the information provided by the Government of Colombia is available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament/gender). An executive summary was provided for inclusion in the present report.

United Nations A/69/115

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General and complete disarmament

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/69/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 68/36, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", the General Assembly invited all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the resolution, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 21 February 2014, a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received thus far are contained in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Governments

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[30 May 2014]

Cuba ensures strict compliance with environmental norms in all aspects of public life, including in the drafting and implementation of disarmament and arms control treaties to which it is a State party, such as the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Protecting the environment is a priority for Cuba, which has robust legislation for protection of the environment and natural resources that is applied strictly by the competent agencies.

Cuba has many instruments to ensure environmental protection in the implementation of disarmament and arms control treaties and agreements to which it is a party, including:

- Article 27 of the Constitution, which incorporates the concept of sustainable development
- Act No. 81/1997 on the environment, which sets forth the principles underpinning Cuba's environmental policy
- Legislative Decree No. 207 on the use of nuclear energy, which establishes the general rules in this area
- Decree No. 208 on the national system of accounting for and control of nuclear material establishes the norms for the national system, with the aim of ensuring the efficient management of nuclear material and detecting any unauthorized use, loss or movement of such material
- Domestic laws on biosecurity and the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention are reflected in Decree-Law No. 190/99 on biosecurity; decision No. 2/2004 of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment on regulations for accounting for and control of biological

materials, equipment and related technologies; the most recent update of the list of biological agents that affect people, animals and plants; and the regulations for granting biosafety certification, which are contained in decisions Nos. 38/2006 and 180/2007, respectively, of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment

- Legislative Decree No. 202/1999, which governs the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention at the domestic level
- Agreement No. 5517 of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of 2005, entitled "On contraventions resulting from violation of the rules of the Chemical Weapons Convention", which rounded out the legislative measures needed to implement the Convention.

Cuba has acquired extensive experience in adopting and implementing laws and policies that enable it to comply with environmental norms; however, the existence of weapons of mass destruction and their ongoing development and potential use are among the most serious threats to international peace and security, to the fragile environmental balance on our planet and to sustainable development for all peoples without distinction.

Cuba reiterates that the only truly effective solution that can prevent the dire consequences of the use of weapons of mass destruction is the total elimination of such weapons.

Relevant environmental standards must be duly taken into account in international disarmament forums during the negotiation of international treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms control.

The Chemical Weapons Convention continues to be the only international agreement that provides for the verifiable destruction of weapons of mass destruction and the facilities where they are produced, and for the protection of humans and the environment.

Given the exceptional process of disposal of Syrian chemical weapons currently under way, including outside the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, Cuba maintains that the removal and destruction of such weapons, as well as the destruction of chemical weapons production and storage facilities, should be conducted strictly in accordance with international environmental law and that all necessary measures should be taken to prevent potential risks.

Considering the more than 17,000 nuclear weapons that currently threaten the survival of the human race and the constant risk of death and destruction of the environment that would be posed by the use of even one in a hundred of those weapons, Cuba reiterates its call to begin without further delay negotiations for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time frame and under strict international control.

A comprehensive treaty on nuclear disarmament must of necessity include measures for the protection of the environment.

A legally binding and multilaterally negotiated protocol to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention is essential to protecting the environment and preserving the biodiversity of our planet.

In the view of Cuba, the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, which Cuba ratified on 10 April 1978, remains fully in force and of utmost importance.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Georgia accords special attention to taking into account relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms control, and fully ensures compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions.

Georgia adopts bilateral, regional and multilateral measures to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress within the framework of international security, disarmament and arms control, without detriment to the environment.

Environmental norms were followed during the drafting and implementation of the Agreement on Disarmament and Arms Control, and all other agreements and conventions are regulated according to Georgian legislation, in particular by: the Law of Georgia on Environment Protection; the Law of Georgia on International Agreements; Administrative Code of Georgia; Criminal Code of Georgia.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 March 2014]

1. Iraq emphasizes the need for observance of environmental norms. In order to protect the environment of our planet, the international community must uphold that basic principle in accordance with the criteria adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the relevant international conventions.

2. The Iraqi Ministry of the Environment is implementing an investment project aimed at developing a radiation monitoring mechanism. The main purpose of the project is to provide early warning of radioactive pollution throughout Iraq by putting in place monitoring systems in every governorate, focusing particularly on border areas. The systems are among the most advanced in the world and give sophisticated and accurate readings and analysis.

3. Iraq complies with all conventions on disarmament and non-proliferation by implementing a range of legislation on environmental protection and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The Government has adopted numerous measures and laws to enforce the environmental norms set forth in disarmament agreements. Iraq complies with those environmental norms and does not possess or manufacture any weapons that have an impact on the environment.

4. Iraq is convinced of the need to foster cooperation and linkage between environmental agreements and international disarmament agreements. Such action

should ensure that the latter are implemented in a manner consistent with environmental norms.

5. States, including Iraq, whose national territory has witnessed wars and armed conflict need technical assistance to eliminate the pollution resulting from war, which has affected the health of the population and caused extensive environmental damage. In cooperation with the relevant international organizations, studies should be conducted and solutions formulated with a view to cleaning the environment and containing the effects of pollution.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[13 May 2014]

At its sixty-eighth session, the United Nations General Assembly, recalling previous resolutions, reaffirmed the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control, particularly in what concerns nuclear weapons. In this context, the Assembly adopted resolution 68/36, recognizing the importance of the adoption of measures that assure the scientific and technical progress by States, in the context of international security.

Portugal has adopted the highest standards regarding environmental protection and pollution prevention. Moreover, best practice guidelines as well as recommendations from the relevant international organizations have been translated into national legislation, particularly in the Environmental Directive for National Defense, dated 19 April 2011. Furthermore, Portugal fully complies with European Union law concerning environmental norms.

The Portuguese Armed Forces, in operation theatres, comply with the most environmentally protective or favourable provisions enshrined either in the Portuguese, the European Union, international or the host country legislations.

In addition, Portugal is party to all major disarmament and non-proliferation conventions in accordance with its international obligation under the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Portugal has disposed of or destroyed its stock of, inter alia, cluster munitions and landmines and, in doing so, fully respected applicable environmental norms, which include standards agreed by the members of the European Union (Directive 2000/76/EC, on the incineration of hazardous wastes).

Being party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention requires from Portugal control measures that are either fully in place or are being implemented, thus contributing to environmental safety and security.

In addition, Portugal complies with such norms when destroying firearms that are found or seized by police forces. The procedures by which they are destroyed are described in more detail in the United Nations International Tracing Instrument report and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Portugal is a State signatory of the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (adopted by resolution 31/72 of the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1976) which recalls the "Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment", adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, and is proceeding with its ratification.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]
[30 May 2014]

1. Disposal of *mélange* liquid rocket fuel components

In accordance with an addendum to the contract dated 16 September 2009 between the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the joint stock company TekhnoAzot for services related to the disposal of *mélange* stockpiles, as at March 2014 work had been carried out to dispose of the remaining stocks of *mélange* stored in the territory of Ukraine.

A road map for completion of an environmental survey and the reclamation of liquid rocket fuel storage sites is now being implemented.

2. Disposal of light weapons and anti-personnel mines

The disposal of surplus small arms of the Ukrainian armed forces is being carried out under an implementation agreement on the disposal of man-portable air defence systems, light weapons and conventional munitions entered into by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Maintenance and Supply Organization pursuant to a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers dated 17 November 2005.

A NATO/Partnership for Peace Trust Fund project to be carried out in Ukraine over a period of 12 years provides for the destruction of 1,000 man-portable air defence systems, 133,000 tons of conventional munitions and 1.5 million small arms. Practical work has been under way since April 2012 on the destruction of 366,000 small arms and 76,000 tons of munitions.

The planning and implementation of these activities are in compliance with international standards under domestic environmental safety legislation.

The State Emergency Service has reported that it is engaged in efforts to clear Ukrainian territory of explosive hazards, pursuant to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V) to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

In 2013, pyrotechnics units of the State Emergency Service were called upon more than 6,800 times to identify hazards, as a result of which they detected, cleared and destroyed more than 81,100 munitions (not counting small arms ammunition), including 1,380 aerial bombs. A total of approximately 2,100 hectares were cleared.

Under the city of Sevastopol's programme for sustainable socioeconomic, environmental and cultural development to 2015, the State Emergency Service cleared 130 hectares and surveyed 625 square metres of mining works and over

100,000 square metres of maritime area in 2013. It found and destroyed more than 12,000 munitions (not counting small arms ammunition).

Work was suspended in 2014 owing to the temporary occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

In order to carry out further clean-up activities in coastal and maritime areas of Ukraine in 2014, the State Emergency Service conducted regular work on surveying and clearing explosive hazards in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov in the provinces of Zaporozhye, Nikolayev, Odessa and Kherson.

In 2013, the State Emergency Service completed its activities under the State environmental programme for clean-up of the military base in Lozova, in Kharkiv province (2011-2013). During the life of the programme, 247 hectares (100 per cent) of territory where the armoury was located were cleared of explosive ordnance and some 35,000 tons of explosive hazards and their remnants were removed and destroyed. Environmental monitoring conducted during those activities indicated that there was no deterioration in the environment or negative impact on local residents' lives.

The following activities were conducted by the State Emergency Service in 2013 under international agreements on cooperation and technical assistance:

- Ongoing implementation of a joint Ukraine-Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) project on capacity-building for the Government of Ukraine to clear explosive remnants of war in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, which has been extended to 31 December 2014.
- Implementation of a joint Ukraine-OSCE project on assistance to the Government of Ukraine for the reclamation of areas contaminated by explosive remnants of war and used as ammunition storage sites has been extended to 31 December 2014.

Under article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention, six representatives of the State Emergency Service attended training courses in 2013 organized by the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, including in the following areas:

- Providing emergency medical assistance to victims of hazardous chemicals
- Providing assistance and protection from chemical weapons
- Skills upgrading for experts from analytical laboratories
- Conducting rescue operations in chemically contaminated areas
- Conducting sampling and analysis in contaminated areas

Compliance with international and domestic environmental law is part of the planning for and implementation of Ukraine's international obligations for the destruction of PFM-1 anti-personnel mines and solid rocket fuel from RS-22 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

For example, out of the existing methods for the disposal of solid fuel from intercontinental ballistic missiles (incineration, explosion, physical dismantling, cryogenic extraction, chemical destruction and hydromechanical extraction), Ukraine has chosen to use hydromechanical extraction of the fuel from the loaded

motor cases, after which the fuel is processed into commercial-grade explosives and emulsion explosives.

This technology makes it possible to extract and reprocess the fuel without releasing any emissions into the air, water or soil. The conversion of explosives containing trinitrotoluene into emulsion explosives is in line with current practice around the world.

PFM-1 and PFM-1S anti-personnel mines and waste produced during the extraction and reprocessing of solid rocket fuel are destroyed at a specially designed and equipped facility. This facility is fitted out with up-to-date systems for the afterburning, filtration and neutralization of harmful solid and gaseous emissions that prevent any such wastes from being leaked into the environment.

The facility for disposal of empty motor cases, which was designed by Eisenmann, a German company, was built on the site of an enterprise with assistance from the United States of America. This facility is also equipped with systems for afterburning, filtration and neutralization of harmful solid and gaseous emissions.

The risk level of the solid substances that form during the disposal of PFM-1 anti-personnel mines and solid rocket fuel from RS-22 missiles allows for the use of such waste in the construction of roads and buildings.

In addition, the following activities are carried out by the Pavlograd chemical plant, a State-owned research and production enterprise:

- In order to conduct regular environmental monitoring and measurement of environmental hazards, a laboratory has been established to carry out occupational health testing and environmental monitoring. This laboratory has completed the State accreditation process and received a certificate of accreditation and a certificate of accreditation as a chemical and bacteriological laboratory.
- An environmental management system certified by the independent firm Bureau Veritas International as complying with the international standard for environmental management (ISO 14001) has been in place since 2003.
- During the design phase for new facilities, a preliminary environmental assessment is conducted to establish baseline environmental indicators for the soil, water and air, and periodic monitoring is carried out after the facilities go into operation. The results of this monitoring are reported to the public and to government authorities.
- Pre-emptive and regulatory measures are developed to preclude any changes to the actual state of the environment.
- Chimneys at these facilities are equipped with standard monitoring devices (gas analysers).

Environmental monitoring at the enterprise is also carried out by regional and central oversight authorities.

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General and complete disarmament

Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/55, the General Assembly reaffirmed the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session and called upon Member States to pursue those ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that might hinder or impair such a dialogue. Furthermore, the Assembly urged States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they were party. The Assembly also emphasized that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help to strengthen international peace and security and to be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and encouraged the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at its sixty-ninth session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. A note verbale was sent on 5 February 2014 to all Member States requesting their views. To date, replies have been received from the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Portugal, Qatar, Serbia, Spain and Ukraine. Those replies are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Member States

Armenia

[Original: English]
[9 May 2014]

General Assembly resolution 68/55 is an important opportunity to examine the challenges relating to confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels, to identify the sources of dormant tensions and to seek solutions.

Armenia has always been a staunch advocate of regional cooperation in every possible sphere. The reasoning is simple and well justified: even if there are problems between the countries in particular regions, any cooperation — whether small or large in scale, or short or long in duration — is an indisputable contributor to building confidence.

Guided by this principled approach, Armenia makes every effort to advance confidence-building in the South Caucasus, utilizing the frameworks of the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Partnership for Peace/ Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and bilateral relations. Armenia has always demonstrated its readiness and willingness to initiate projects aimed at the development of regional cooperation in various fields.

Unfortunately, the prevailing situation in the region and the ill-perceived political motivations of Turkey and Azerbaijan do not allow practical confidence-building steps to be taken in the field of disarmament. Even worse, there is an extremely dangerous arms race looming at the subregional level.

According to official information on the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, as at 1 January 2014 Azerbaijan significantly exceeds its established ceilings in two categories of the equipment restricted under the Treaty. The Azerbaijani holdings in battle tanks are 484 (the permitted ceiling is 220) and its holdings in artillery are 624 (the permitted ceiling is 285). In 2010, there was a sizeable increase in the holdings in artillery (44), as well as in the categories of attack helicopters (11) and combat aircraft (4).

The many-fold increase in Azerbaijan's military budget over the past years (by 470 per cent since 2000, with defence spending in 2011 up to $3.3 billion) and the persistent aggressive and harsh rhetoric of the Azerbaijani leadership also heighten the tensions in the region of the South Caucasus and seriously undermine the negotiation process aimed at the peaceful settlement of existing problems, in particular the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The confidence- and security-building measures are of particular significance in conflict resolution. Regrettably, Azerbaijan refuses to remove from the line of contact snipers that claim several dozens of lives every year. The Azeri side ignores the persistent calls of the Secretary-General, consecutive Chairpersons-in-Office of OSCE and the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to this effect. Azerbaijan fails to deliver on its own commitment made in the joint statement by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation on 23 January 2012 in Sochi, Russian Federation, and refuses to strengthen the ceasefire regime by establishing an investigative mechanism into ceasefire violations.

The full and unconditional implementation of the legally binding Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is not only the main instrument of conventional arms control, but also one of the cornerstones of confidence-building measures in the region. The negligent position of Azerbaijan in this regard has had a very negative impact on the efforts of Armenia to promote an atmosphere of trust and cooperation in the region.

To ease the existing tensions in the region, to reverse the worrisome trends and to fill the security vacuum, Armenia and Georgia have been taking responsible steps to advance bilateral cooperation also in the field of defence. Hopefully, this positive development will influence the other stakeholders in the region to embark on the same road.

Azerbaijan

[Original: English]
[30 May 2014]

Azerbaijan considers confidence-building measures to be a valuable complementary tool in fostering common trust and security among States at the international, regional and subregional levels. The implementation of confidence-building measures should take place in a manner that ensures the right of each State to equal security, guaranteeing that no individual State or group of States obtains

advantages over others. Confidence-building measures cannot be applied out of the overall political and security context, in particular when conflict situations are the area of application. They can be effective only when there is a genuine commitment of States to peace and stability supported by specific actions that enjoy confidence.

Azerbaijan continues its consistent efforts at the multilateral and bilateral levels to ensure closer coordination and cooperation in the implementation of its respective obligations in the area of arms control, non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures. As a participating State of OSCE, Azerbaijan regularly engages in sharing information, submits reports and receives on-site inspections, evaluation and observation visits under the OSCE Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers, among others.

The continued occupation by Armenia of the Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region and seven surrounding districts of Azerbaijan is a serious obstacle to the effective application of confidence-building measures in the South Caucasus region. In its resolution 68/55, the General Assembly called upon Member States to refrain from the threat or use of force in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to settle their disputes by peaceful means. Armenia's consistent and wilful disregard for these and other international legal obligations undermines peace, security and stability in the South Caucasus.

Armenia continues its military build-up and regularly conducts large-scale military exercises in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Regular ceasefire violations and deliberate attacks by the Armed Forces of Armenia against Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects are becoming more frequent and violent, resulting in the killing and maiming of many civilians residing near the front line.

Armenia must immediately withdraw its Armed Forces from all occupied territories in Azerbaijan, respect the latter's territorial integrity and constructively engage in the negotiations on the settlement of the conflict, thus paving the way for the achievement of lasting peace, security and stability in the region.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[14 April 2014]

Cuba recognizes the valuable contribution of confidence-building measures in strengthening regional and international peace and security. In this regard, it supports the guidelines for confidence-building measures adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/78 H.

Cuba also reaffirms the validity of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures and for the implementation of such measures on a global or regional level adopted unanimously by the Disarmament Commission in 1996. The guidelines state, among other things, that confidence-building is "a step-by-step process of taking all concrete and effective measures which express political commitments and are of military significance and which are designed to make

progress in strengthening confidence and security to lessen tension and assist in arms limitation and disarmament".

The adoption of regional and subregional confidence-building measures which fully respect the purposes and principles of the Charter and enjoy the consent and participation of the parties concerned can help to avoid conflict, prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities and contribute to regional stability and the achievement of development objectives, including the eradication of poverty and protection of the environment. Economic, social and cultural development is inextricably related to international peace and security.

Because they are voluntary in nature, confidence-building measures cannot be imposed. The success of such measures will depend to a large extent on achieving genuine consensus among the States participating in their implementation.

For confidence-building measures to be truly effective, they must respond to the specific circumstances of the country, region or subregion in question. There can be no one-size-fits-all measures.

Respect for international law, full compliance with the Charter and international treaties, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the sovereignty of States, non-intervention and refraining from the threat or use of force are the basis for peaceful coexistence and international security and constitute the indispensable framework for the development of truly effective confidence-building measures.

The implementation of confidence-building measures can help to create an enabling environment for effective arms control and limitation and disarmament and enhance the prospects for peaceful settlement of disputes. At the same time, such measures can in no way be a substitute for arms control and disarmament measures and existing regional and subregional treaties in that area, nor are they a precondition for their implementation. It is important not to lose focus on disarmament measures or impair them in any way.

The existence of more than 17,000 nuclear weapons and their continuing modernization and development, in addition to the ever-increasing world military expenditure, which now exceeds $1.756 trillion per year, are factors that create a climate of mistrust and legitimate international concern. In this context, Cuba reiterates that States with greater military capabilities bear a major responsibility with regard to confidence-building measures.

As a specific initiative, which in addition to its obvious usefulness could have great value as a confidence-building measure, Cuba proposes the creation of a fund administered by the United Nations, into which at least half of current military expenditure would be paid in order to meet the economic and social development requirements of needy countries.

It is necessary to strengthen, improve and extend confidence-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, precisely because they are designed to promote understanding, transparency and cooperation among States. At the same time, Cuba considers that the implementation of confidence-building measures should take place in such a manner as to ensure the right of each State to undiminished security, guaranteeing that no individual State or group of States obtains advantages over others at any stage of the confidence-building process.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[20 May 2014]

Processes arising as a result of globalization are conducive to building confidence at the regional and subregional levels, thereby heightening the level of trust between citizens and the State and among States.

Measures must be taken to achieve sustainable social, economic and human development, given that this will lead to significant improvement within each Member State, and as a consequence, to regional security. In the same vein, we cannot envisage confidence without considering compliance with international law and respect for the sovereignty of each State. For that reason, we should consider the following actions, among others:

(a) Promote greater institutional transparency and mechanisms for exchange of information among Member States concerning actions relating to firearms, ammunition and associated items, especially with regard to transfer, trade, diversion, trafficking and record-keeping, with a focus on small arms and light weapons;

(b) Strengthen technical cooperation and integration mechanisms, including diagnostics and modus operandi, in order to increase the recovery of illegal weapons, weapons held by unauthorized users and weapons that are misused, given that reduced access to firearms, especially for civilians, will enhance public security and peaceful coexistence;

(c) Improve the conceptualization of regional and subregional security, for while most countries in a region may face common problems and similar challenges within a shared cultural and socioeconomic framework, there are significant differences in some countries of the region and subregion, and these specificities must be taken into consideration, within a context of cooperation, so that the actions being designed and implemented are coherent and respond adequately to the specific needs of each State;

(d) Raise awareness that addressing security challenges does not necessarily mean engaging in actions or responses that involve military conflict;

(e) Improve mechanisms for the distribution of resources to address natural disasters in a context of solidarity among States and humanitarian support;

(f) Work together to improve public, educational and cultural policies in order to advance the promotion of a culture of peace.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[30 May 2014]

Ecuador considers that improvements in regional and subregional integration provide the appropriate framework for the implementation of confidence-building measures. In this regard, the South American Defence Council has made significant progress in promoting South America as a zone of peace and cooperation. To that end, in the Declaration of Paramaribo of 30 August 2013, the Heads of State of the

region noted that the Council was the ideal space for moving forward in the development of strategic thinking.

At present, the Council is developing a shared vision on regional defence, based on such aspects as the protection of strategic natural resources, cyberdefence and cooperation in the defence industry and in capacity-building and training, in particular with the establishment of the South American Defence College, an initiative that was led by Ecuador with support from Brazil and Argentina.

That shared vision was given specific form in the clear strategic direction set out in the action plan for 2014, the rules of the Council and the matrix of military inventories. It should be mentioned that, at the fifth meeting of the Council, the Centre for Strategic Defence Studies presented a report on the recording of defence expenditure in the region, which will be published in the coming months.

Furthermore, on 12 May 2014, the Ministers of Defence of Ecuador, Peru and Colombia held a meeting on the border for the first time at which they made a commitment to institutionalizing tripartite meetings with the aim of sharing information and reaching agreement on and implementing actions to counter illegal trafficking in arms, ammunition, explosives and drugs, the smuggling of fuel and chemical precursors and illegal mining activities, all of which are threats to the security of sea, river and land borders and inland areas of all three countries.

Confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels have, in the view of Ecuador, been essential in building a defence system geared to face new challenges and combat common threats through the implementation of regional instruments in the service of peace and regional stability. They have also served to strengthen cooperative efforts in areas of common concern — such as mapping of natural disaster risks and the conduct of peacekeeping exercises — that will benefit the peoples of our region.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[14 May 2014]

The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/55 on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context, recalling the resolutions and guidelines adopted by consensus by the Assembly and the Disarmament Commission relating to confidence-building measures, urged States to comply with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they were party.

Portugal considers that confidence-building measures are a key element in the improvement and reinforcement of peace and security and are an important way to prevent and avoid conflicts at the international, regional and subregional levels.

In this context, Portugal publishes an annual report on international trade and intermediation of defence products. Portugal also collects national data on exports of conventional weapons, which it submits to the European Union for its annual report, to the United Nations, to OSCE and to the secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies. Portugal also publishes annually its military budget, which is available to non-governmental organizations and think tanks.

Furthermore, as to the export of weapons, Portugal fully complies with Council of the European Union Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, which sets forth rules common to all member States. Those rules include respect for international and regional embargoes, regional stability and, especially, human rights.

Portugal has welcomed a visit by African Union delegates to Portuguese maritime facilities in line with the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[23 April 2014]

Confidence-building should be based on the following elements:

(a) The international multilateral instruments on disarmament, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons;

(b) Action on the part of the United Nations and major States in order to persuade those States that have yet to accede to the relevant instruments;

(c) Implementation of the recommendations and outcomes of the review conferences and conferences of States parties to instruments prohibiting weapons of mass destruction;

(d) Affirmation of the right of States to acquire conventional weapons to the extent necessary for their self-defence, under the supervision of the United Nations. The Organization's role should be to regulate, rather than to restrict, the trade in such weapons.

Serbia

[Original: English]
[28 May 2014]

In accordance with their responsibilities, the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Serbia have actively participated in the following regional security initiatives in South-East Europe: the Regional Cooperation Council, the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial process, the Forum for Western Balkans Defence Cooperation, the Balkan Countries Chiefs of Defence Conference and the Centre for Security Cooperation. In addition, Serbia has observer status in the United States-Adriatic Charter.

The said initiatives serve to promote cooperation in the field of security and development opportunities and to identify national capacity in regional centres (the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre, the military medical academy, the military hospital in Niš, the "Jug" military base, the Centre for Peacekeeping Operations and the Centre for the Destruction of Ammunition and Weapons Kragujevac).

Through their relevant organizational units, the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Serbia fulfil all their international obligations under the Vienna Document 2011, the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Proceeding from chapter X, on regional measures, of the Vienna Document 2011, Serbia has signed bilateral agreements in the field of arms control with Hungary at the government level and with Bulgaria at the Ministry of Defence level. Under those agreements, two activities on the territory of each country were carried out in 2013. During the activities in Bulgaria, an updated protocol between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria on strengthening confidence- and security-building measures complementing the Vienna Document 2011 was signed. At the same time, two activities were also carried out in the territory of Serbia.

All provisions of article IV, on measures for subregional arms control, of annex 1-B to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Agreement) have been fully complied with. In 2013, Serbia took part in five inspections carried out in the territories of the other parties to the Agreement, while they took part in five inspections carried out in the territory of Serbia. Nine inspections are scheduled for 2014, five in the territory of Serbia and four in the territories of the other parties to the Agreement.

The transfer of ownership of the Agreement on Sub-regional Arms Control to the parties to the Agreement is under way. The activities are taking place according to schedule and the process is expected to be completed by the end of 2014. It is pointed out that this is the only agreement in the field of arms control that is complied with consistently and implemented in full.

The activities provided for by article V of annex 1-B to the Dayton Agreement are carried out on a regular basis by the Verification Centre of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia and the Verification Centre of the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2013, one activity took place in Serbia, while two activities (one in Serbia and one in Germany) are scheduled for 2014.

The quantities of arms in the possession of the Armed Forces of Serbia are below the limit defined in article IV of annex 1-B to the Dayton Agreement and continue to decrease to the minimum level that meets the external and internal security needs of Serbia.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[30 April 2014]

The ultimate goal of a regime for arms control or of confidence- and security-building measures should be conflict prevention by reducing the danger of misperceptions or miscalculations with regard to the military activities of other States; by implementing measures to make covert military preparations more difficult; and by reducing the risk of surprise attacks or the accidental eruption of hostilities.

From that perspective, confidence- and security-building measures within a regional or subregional context are of great value as a form of prevention

specifically adapted to that context, given that they involve a smaller number of participants and can therefore be more stringent and thus more effective. All of the foregoing makes such measures easier to adopt and implement.

Within its own regional sphere, Spain has actively participated in all relevant initiatives; it is a party to the Treaty on Open Skies, which includes a set of legally binding measures and, as a member of OSCE, it is politically bound through the measures contained in the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (which was updated in 2011 with the aim of improving and broadening its implementation), as well as by other OSCE documents.[1] Moreover, Spain has contributed to the implementation of the regional stabilization agreements established by annex 1-B to the Dayton Agreement.[2]

In our view, of all the principles that should govern confidence- and security-building measures in the regional and subregional context, the following are most noteworthy: singularity, transparency, verifiability, reciprocity, voluntary participation in negotiations and obligatory compliance, progressivity and complementarity.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[23 May 2014]

Ukraine remains consistently committed to the objectives of strengthening security for all, including through effective confidence- and security-building measures. As such, Ukraine welcomes all respective pan-European, subregional and complementary bilateral confidence- and security-building measures, past, present and future.

Confidence- and security-building measures have confirmed their relevancy and instrumentality by way of most of the OSCE community's concerted resistance to the violation of the rules of civilized behaviour during the serious crises in and around Ukraine caused by the Russian Federation's occupation and annexation of part of its territory — the Autonomous Republic of Crimea — which was followed by the destabilization of the south and east of our country, supported by Moscow, which is unprecedented in modern European history. This approach showed a responsible perception by the majority of the European community to the principle of the indivisibility of security.

The possibilities and tools stipulated in the Vienna Document 2011 for addressing concerns with regard to the illegal military activities of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine and Russia's unusual and intentionally intimidating military activities near Ukraine's borders were and are widely used.

Ukraine is a long-term responsible party to such pan-European, subregional and complementary bilateral confidence-building mechanisms as the Treaty on

[1] For example, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Global Exchange of Military Information or the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

[2] Our country, through the Spanish Verification Unit, provides assistance with regard to and participates in the organization and implementation of the verification measures required by the Agreement. Spain is also a party to article V, which covers measures for establishing a broader regional balance and which came into force on 1 January 2002.

Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, the Treaty on Open Skies and the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and an active participant in their modernization. In addition, Ukraine has had very positive experiences of deepening confidence-building through the use of separate bilateral intergovernmental agreements on confidence- and security-building measures in border areas, as is encouraged by the Vienna Document. To date, Ukraine has entered into such agreements with neighbouring Poland in 2004, Hungary in 1998, Slovakia in 2000 and Belarus in 2001. Regular inspection activities and meetings of the parties to those agreements are aimed not so much at verifying compliance, but mostly at enhancing military contacts and their mutual relations in the interest of incrementally strengthening and complementing a bilateral, subregional and European confidence- and security-building process. On 10 March 2014, Ukraine signed an intergovernmental agreement on bilateral confidence- and security-building measures with Romania. Regrettably, Ukraine's numerous proposals to enter into similar agreements with Russia were rejected by the Russian side under the pretext of a strategic partnership between the two countries, whose true nature was entirely revealed by Russia's occupation of Ukraine's Crimea, the concentration of the Russian Armed Forces along the Ukrainian borders and subversive activities on Ukraine's territory.

In addition, and regrettably, the Russian Federation's unacceptable behaviour undermined the viability of such regional confidence-building arrangements of the Black Sea littoral States as the Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group and the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea.

Ukraine is confident that the strong commitment of all participating States to fully implementing and further improving and extending confidence- and security-building measures is essential for enhancing military and political stability within the respective regions. It is, however, a great challenge to ensure that the obligations undertaken are respected, even by non-democratic regimes.

Ukraine believes that the European experience with confidence- and security-building measures may rightly be regarded as a success story and that the Vienna Document, which has generated a great deal of experience in the field of trust- and confidence-building, can serve as a viable example for similar arrangements in other regions because confidence- and security-building measures could certainly benefit all parts of the world.